

TOSCO CORPORATION

3 WEST MAIN STREET
P. O. BOX 814
VERNAL, UTAH 84078
801/789-5100



September 16, 1977

CORPORATE OFFICES:
10100 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90067
213/552-7000

ACT/047/001

Mr. Ron Daniels
Utah Division of Oil,
Gas and Mining
1588 W North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Dear Mr. Daniels:

As you requested in our telephone conversation yesterday I am forwarding to you an archaeological clearance of our Sand Wash property south of Vernal.

The archaeological survey was conducted by Dr. Ray Matheny from Brigham Young University. He has conducted two such surveys for Tosco Corporation. The first was a reconnaissance of an area where we are now conducting plant, animal and air quality surveys. The second series of surveys were at three areas where we anticipate performing some modest drilling programs. This was completed in August 1976 and we received, verbally from Dr. Matheny, the assurance that no archaeological sites were at these areas.

I have been in contact with him and they will forward to us and to your office a written archaeological report on the last survey as you requested.

Sincerely,

Joe M. Merino
Resident Manager
Sand Wash Project

JMM/prr

Enclosure

cc: R.G. Vawter
Al Schillinger
Robert Crookston
Mike Spence

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
IN CENTRAL UINTAH COUNTY, UTAH

CC: RGV
HMS
RBC
AWS

Joe Merino ✓

by

J. Terry Walker

A Special Report
Department of Anthropology and Archaeology
Brigham Young University

Submitted to:
The Oil Shale Corporation
Denver, Colorado

May 1976

INTRODUCTION

During the past few years, the increased demand for petroleum products has taken developers to eastern Utah and western Colorado to develop the area's oil shale reserves. One of the by-products of the processed oil shale is a solid residue, which is of little use, and therefore, disposed of. In the process of developing a site for the disposal of this residue and in compliance with state and federal antiquities regulations, Mr. Kenneth D. Van Zanten of the Oil Shale Corporation (TOSCO) of Denver, Colorado sought the archaeological services of Dr. Ray T. Matheny of the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, Brigham Young University. Dr. Matheny subsequently contacted the author, who then conducted an archaeological survey on April 15, 1976 of three small areas approximately twenty-five miles southeast of Ouray, Uintah County, Utah.

The survey was conducted on lands leased by the State of Utah to TOSCO, and permission to conduct the survey was granted by Dr. David Madsen, State Archaeologist for Utah.

This report is a summary of the survey and contains sections on the setting of the survey, the survey procedure, a summary of previous archaeological work in the area, and the results and conclusions of the survey. Dr. Ray Matheny supervised the survey and the writing of the report, but the author assumes responsibility for its contents.

SURVEY SETTING AND PROCEDURE

Setting

The three areas surveyed are on the top and near the end of a flat ridge that runs east-west. This ridge is in the southeast quarter of Section 26, Township 9 South, Range 21 East of the Ouray SE (7.5 minute series) Quadrangle (see accompanying map). The elevation of the top of the ridge is approximately 5020 - 5030 feet.

The vegetation in the area is sparse and consists of small shrubs and forbs such as horsebrush and Jack sage. Sheep winter in the area and keep the vegetation well trimmed.

The geology consists of Tertiary sediments, mainly sandstones and shales, of the Uintah Formation (Untermann and Untermann n.d.). The surface consists of desert armor and is very rocky.

Survey procedure

The survey procedure involved intensive investigations of the three areas circled on the map as well as access routes from the main road to them. Additional less intensive investigations were made of the areas between the three sites, along the rim of the ridge, and at the base of the ridge on the south side. In all, about twenty acres were surveyed.

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

Although no sites nor archaeological work has been recorded in the area surveyed, Uintah County and the Uintah Basin have been the scene of much archaeological activity. As early as 1916, the archaeology profession became aware of sites in Hill Canyon just south of the area surveyed that were similar to masonry towers in the Four Corners area (Fowkes 1917: 24). Then, in the late 1920's, the Peabody Museum Claflin-Emerson Expedition recorded sites in Nine Mile, Hill, Range, and Desolation

Canyons (Gunnerson 1969: 29; Scott 1932). In the 1930's, Reagan and Steward were active in describing the antiquities they saw and compiled long lists of published articles (see the bibliography for a sample of these).

Additional archaeological work took place in the 1930's and 1940's, but the most significant was that in and near Dinosaur National Monument. This activity was begun by Baldwin (1947) and Burgh and Scoggin (1948). The University of Colorado continued this work for the next twenty years, and it is best summarized by Breternitz (1970).

In the 1960's, the University of Colorado and the University of Utah began excavations near the towns of Ditches, La Point, Roosevelt, and Vernal. The most notable reports of this work are by Leach (1966), Ambler (1966), and Shields (1967).

Other recorded sites not reported in published literature are noted on records in the State Antiquities Office in Salt Lake City. Several lithic scatters in this category are found along the Green River near Ouray.

The majority of recorded sites in the Uintah Basin belong to the Fremont Culture. This culture was similar to the Anasazi people of the Four Corners area and is best discussed by Gunnerson (1957, 1969) and Wormington (1955).

Two of the most significant sites in the basin are not prehistoric but rather historical sites. They were fur trading posts built in the 1830's by Antoine Robidoux. One was located just south of Ouray near the junction of the Green, Uintah, and White Rivers, while the other was built just east of Whiterocks north of Roosevelt. The significance of these sites is that they were permanent dwellings, and the one near Whiterocks was the first permanent building built by a white man in the State of

Utah (Walker 1973). The site near Curay was partially excavated in 1939 (Kelly 1946), and more information of these forts can be found in Kelly (1933, 1946), Morrill (1941), and Reagan (1934b, 1935).

SURVEY RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The chief result of the survey is that no archaeological sites were found. Furthermore, because the area is desolate and not conducive to prehistoric occupation, no or few sites would be found within several miles of the area surveyed.

Because the proposed establishment of a meteorological tower and two revegetation plots will not affect any archaeological sites, the author recommends that TOSCO be allowed to continue this project.

REFERENCES

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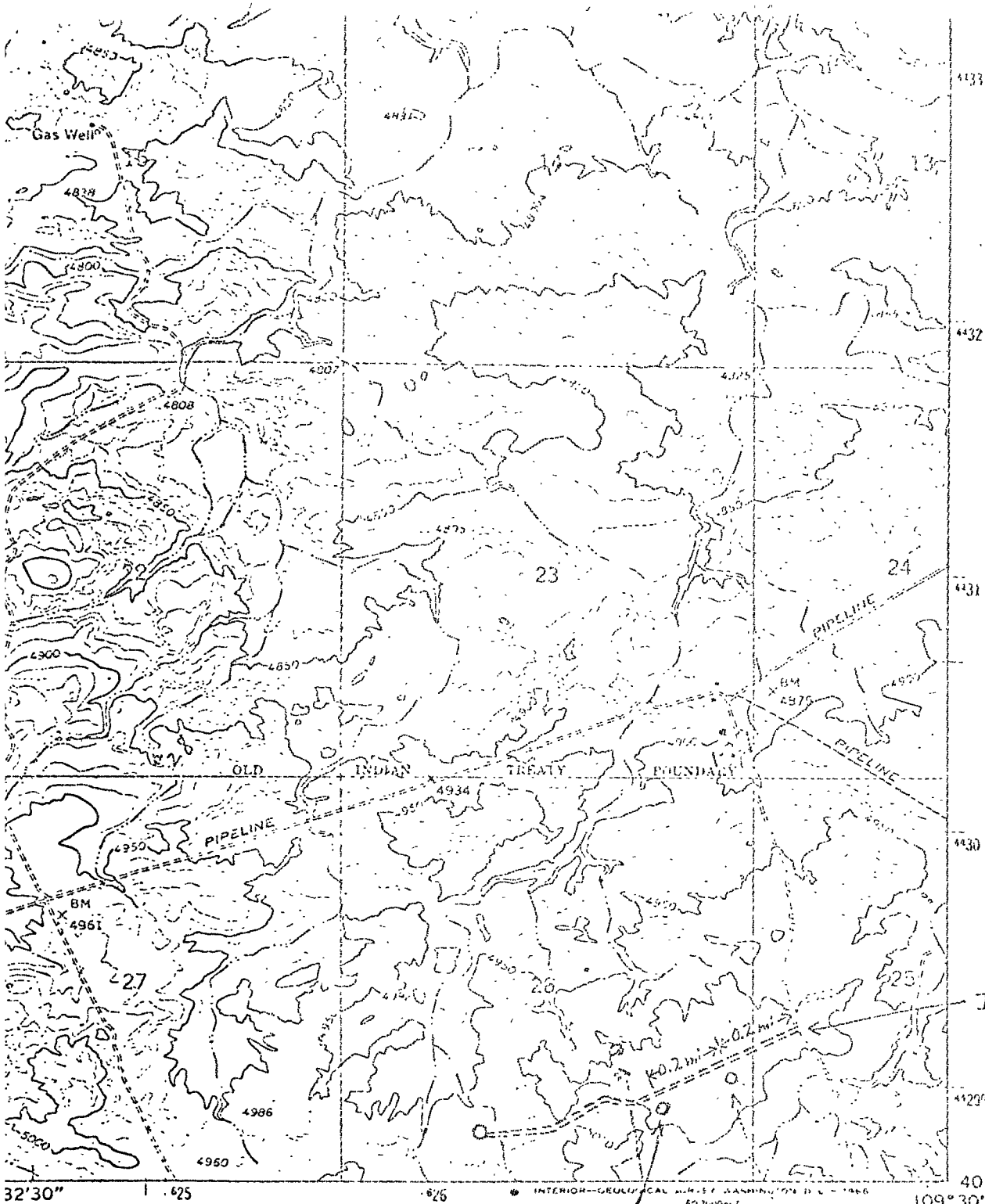
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T. 9 S.

Intersection

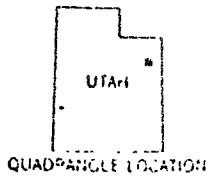
32'30" 1.625 625 627 109°30' 40°00' 1964

Interior-Geological Survey Washington D.C. - 1966

R. 21 E. 300' Alt. Culvert Tower

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Light-duty Unimproved dirt



OURAY SE, UTAH
N4000--W109.10/7.5

1964

AMS 4064 II SE--SERIES V897



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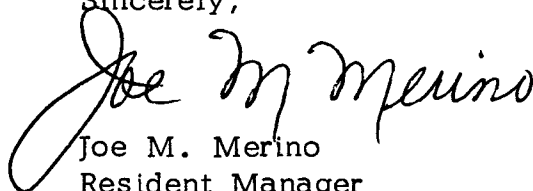
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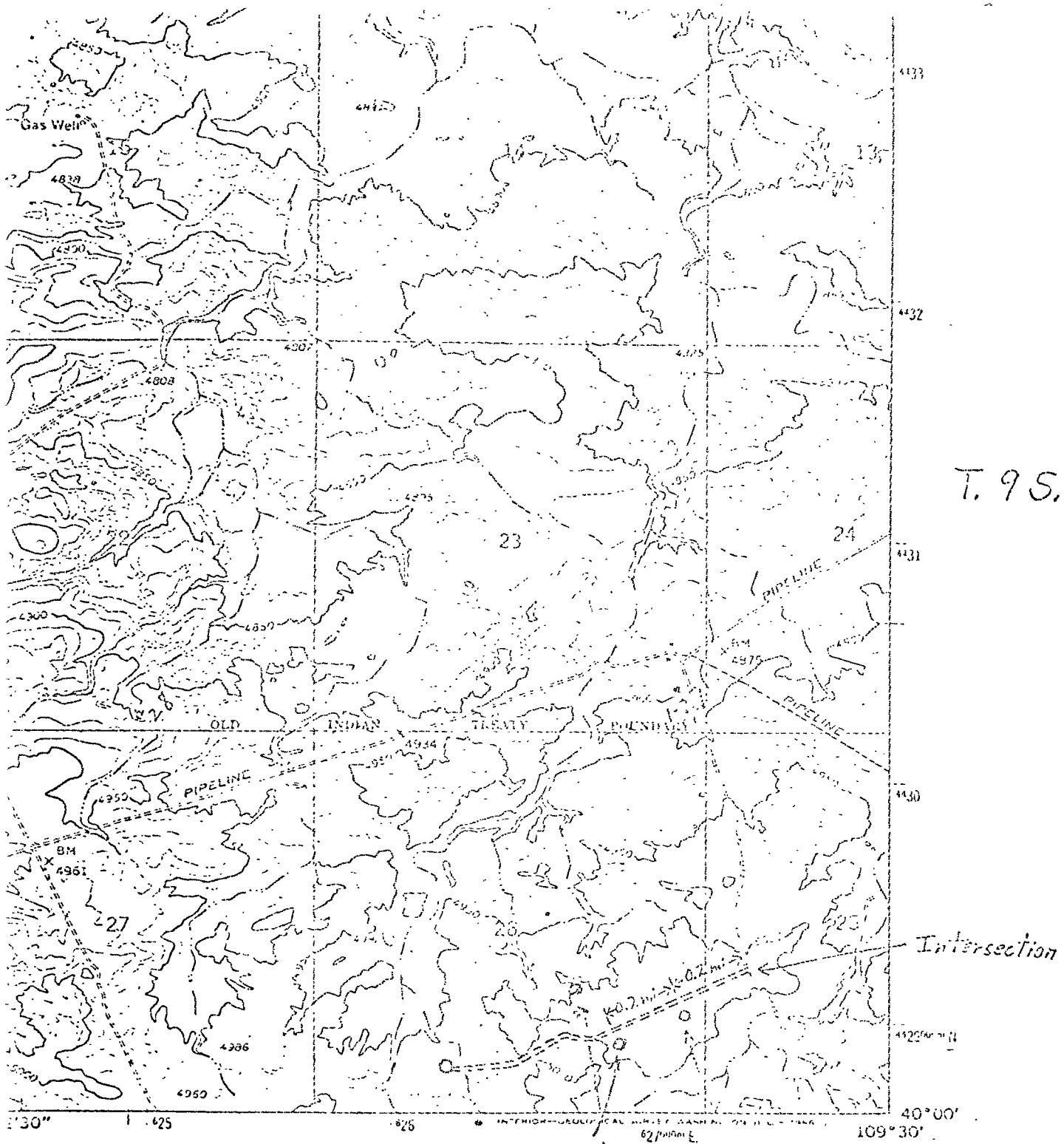
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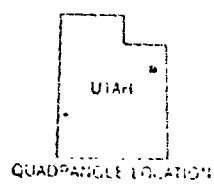
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Revised 1964 300' Mt. subject Tower

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OURAY SE, UTAH
N4000--W109 10' / 5

1964